

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 August 2004 (05.08.2004)

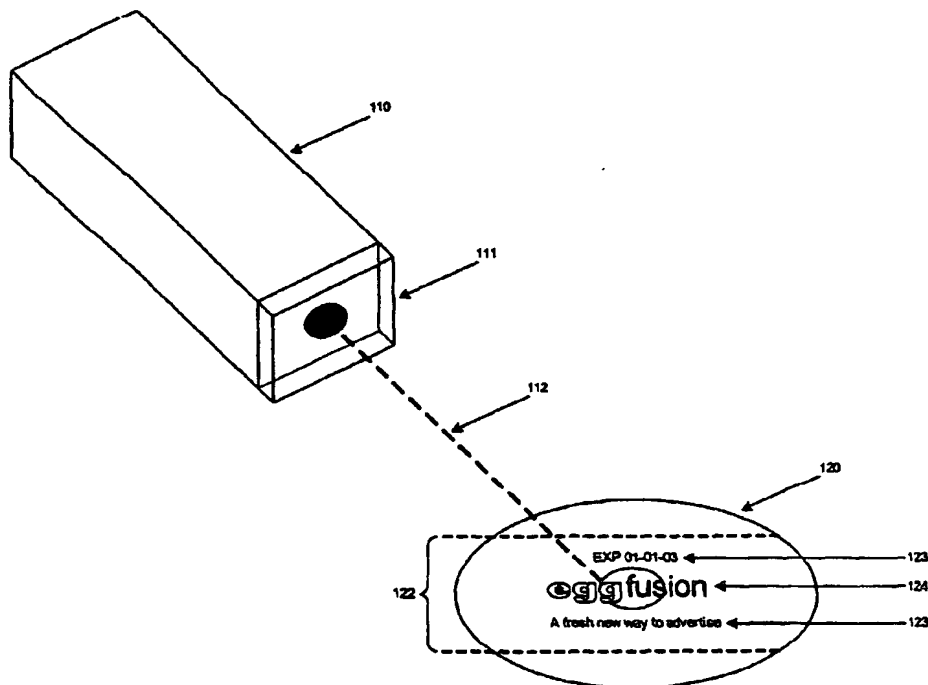
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/064530 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B41F 17/30**, (74) Agents: **JAROSIK, Gary, R.** et al.; Greenberg Traurig, P.C., 77 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 2500, Chicago, IL 60601-1732 (US).
B41J 3/407, A01K 43/10
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/000633 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/440,273 15 January 2003 (15.01.2003) US
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR LASER MARKING OF EGGS



(57) Abstract: An egg (120) is provided with an advertisement and a freshness date upon the egg. The advertisement and freshness date may be applied to the egg with radiant energy (112). The egg may move through an egg-handling machine through a region where the radiant energy may be applied to the egg. The radiant energy (112) discolors the egg, thereby creating text (123) and graphics (124), which form the advertisement and freshness date.

WO 2004/064530 A3



Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

9 June 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/00633

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B41F 17/30; B41J 3/407; A01K 43/10
US CL : 347/225; 119/50.7; 101/35

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 347/225, 224, 262, 264, 110; 119/50.7, 45.2; 101/35, 41; 346/107.1, 107.6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST text search--search terms: laser, print, mark, stamp, coding, egg, eggshell, shell, radiation, etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2000-168157 (MITSUO et al.) 20 June 2000 (20.06.2000), see English language abstract, Figures 1-4 and attached partial English language translation.	1-14 and 16-21
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Y		15 and 22-24
A	JP 2001-136859 (TWASA) 22 May 2001 (22.05.2001), see English language abstract.	1-24
A	DE 101 09 109 A1 (BAUMEISTER) 18 October 2001 (18.10.2001), see English language abstract.	1-24
A	DE 43 22 252 A1 (GARTZEN et al.) 19 January 1995 (19.01.1995), see English language abstract.	1-24

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"&"

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

07 August 2004 (07.08.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 JAN 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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